

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Counsel also thanks Examiner A. S. Rao for the courtesy of an interview held on November 5, 2009.

Claims 9-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 9-16 for easy reading. Claims 9 and 10 are the claims that were discussed with the Examiner at the interview. Claims 11-15 correspond to claims 2-6, respectively. New independent apparatus claim 16 corresponds to claims 7 and 8, and further reflects the language of new independent method claim 9. The new claims find solid support in the original specification and drawings, especially FIGs. 2-3. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

All rejections are moot as the rejected claims have been canceled.

The new method claims, i.e., claims 9-15, are believed free of any issues under 35 *U.S.C.* 101 and *In re Bilski* because the method claims now include "particular machine" features.

The new claims 9-15 are not anticipated by or obvious over the applied reference of *Au* because the reference, as discussed with the Examiner at the interview, does not teach or suggest the claimed "horizontal search pattern, which is elongated in a horizontal direction of the search window" and "vertical search pattern, which is elongated in a vertical direction of the search window." *Au* discloses a diamond shape which is equally sized in both the vertical and horizontal directions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for

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allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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